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Note verbale dated 2 May 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the secretariat of the Human Rights Council, and has the honour to attach herewith, in English and Spanish, a statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba with regard to the arbitrary and unilateral designation of Cuba as a "State sponsor of terrorism" by the Department of State of the United States of America (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba kindly request that the present note verbale and the attachment thereto* be published as a document of the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 3, in all official languages of the United Nations.

* Circulated as received.

Annex

[Original: English and Spanish]

Statement from the Cuban Foreign Ministry

On April 30, the U.S. Department of State published its Country Reports on Terrorism 2013, which included the absurd designation of Cuba as a "State Sponsor of Terrorism" for the thirtieth occasion.

However, the Department of State has no other choice but to acknowledge in its own report that "throughout 2013, the Government of Cuba supported and hosted negotiations between the FARC and the Government of Colombia aimed at brokering a peace agreement between the two", and that "there was no indication that the Cuban government provided weapons or paramilitary training to terrorist groups" and that "ETA members in Cuba were relocated with the cooperation of the Spanish government".

But even so, considerations of political nature and the need to justify at all cost the blockade, which has failed and has been unanimously rejected by the international community, prevail over rationality once again.

As the only pretext to support that slanderous accusation against Cuba, the Department of State claims the presence in our country of "fugitives" from U.S. justice, none of whom, it is worth clarifying it, has been accused of terrorism. Some of these citizens have been granted asylum legitimately, while others who committed crimes in the United States were fairly tried and sentenced, and decided to reside in Cuba after serving their sentences.

The Cuban Government ratifies that the national territory has never been used or will never be used to shelter terrorists of any origin, or to organize, finance or perpetrate acts of terrorism against any country in the world, including the United States. Likewise, it rejects and condemns unequivocally all acts of terrorism, anywhere, under any circumstances and whatever their motivations may be.

It is the Government of the United States that uses State terrorism as a weapon against countries that oppose its domination, uses reprehensible methods such as torture and uses advanced military technology, including unmanned planes, to execute alleged terrorists out of court, including U.S. citizens, and has also killed many innocent people among the civilian population.

Cuba is one of those countries that, for defending its independence and dignity, has suffered for decades the consequences of terrorist acts, organized, funded and executed from U.S. territory, resulting in 3,478 deaths and 2,009 disabled people.

Cuba, Latin America, the Caribbean and the world will never forget that it is the U.S. Government that continues sheltering terrorists of Cuban origin, like Luis Posada Carriles, the brain behind the first terrorist attack on civil aviation in the Western Hemisphere, which caused the explosion in midair of a Cubana de Aviacion plane off the coast of Barbados on October 6, 1976, and killed all 73 passengers. Paradoxically, it has unjustly held the Cuban antiterrorist fighters Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labañino and Antonio Guerrero in prison for a long time, for crimes that they did not commit.

The Foreign Ministry strongly rejects the manipulation of such a sensitive issue as international terrorism to turn it into an instrument of the policy against Cuba and demands that our country be excluded for good from that spurious, unilateral and arbitrary black list

that is an affront to the Cuban people and discredits the very Government of the United States.

Declaración del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Cuba

El 30 de abril, el Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos publicó su Informe por Países sobre Terrorismo correspondiente al año 2013, que reiteró la absurda designación de Cuba como "Estado Patrocinador del Terrorismo", por trigésima segunda ocasión.

Sin embargo, al Departamento de Estado no le queda otra opción que reconocer en su propio informe que en el 2013, "el Gobierno de Cuba apoyó y auspició negociaciones entre las FARC y el Gobierno de Colombia con el objetivo de lograr un acuerdo de paz entre ambas partes"; que "no hay información de que el gobierno cubano haya suministrado armamento o dado entrenamiento paramilitar a grupos terroristas"; y que "miembros de ETA residentes en Cuba fueron reubicados con la cooperación del gobierno español".

Pero aún así, consideraciones de carácter político y la necesidad de justificar a toda costa el bloqueo, fracasado y unánimemente rechazado por la comunidad internacional, se imponen a la racionalidad una vez más.

Como único pretexto para apoyar esta calumniosa acusación contra Cuba, el Departamento de Estado alude a la presencia en nuestro país de "fugitivos" de la justicia estadounidense, ninguno de los cuales, vale aclarar, ha sido acusado de terrorismo. A algunos de estos ciudadanos se les concedió asilo legítimamente, mientras que otros que cometieron delitos en los Estados Unidos, fueron debidamente juzgados y sancionados, y decidieron residir en Cuba tras el cumplimiento de sus sentencias.

El Gobierno de Cuba ratifica que el territorio nacional nunca ha sido utilizado ni se usará para acoger a terroristas de ningún origen, ni para organizar, financiar o perpetrar actos de terrorismo contra ningún país del mundo, incluyendo los Estados Unidos. De igual forma, rechaza y condena inequívocamente todo acto de terrorismo, en cualquier lugar, circunstancia y cualesquiera que sean las motivaciones que se aleguen.

Es el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos el que emplea el terrorismo de Estado como un arma contra países que se oponen a su dominación, utiliza métodos repudiables como la tortura y emplea tecnología militar avanzada, incluidos los aviones no tripulados, para ejecutar extrajudicialmente a supuestos terroristas, incluso ciudadanos estadounidenses, y han causado además numerosas muertes de inocentes entre la población civil.

Cuba es uno de esos países que, por defender su independencia y dignidad, sufrió durante décadas las consecuencias de actos terroristas, organizados, financiados y ejecutados desde el territorio de los Estados Unidos, con un saldo de 3 478 muertos y 2 099 discapacitados.

Cuba, América Latina, el Caribe y el mundo jamás olvidarán que es el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos el que sigue dando refugio a terroristas de origen cubano, como Luis Posada Carriles, autor intelectual del primer atentado terrorista contra la aviación civil en el Hemisferio Occidental, que provocó la explosión en pleno vuelo, frente a las costas de Barbados, de un avión de Cubana de Aviación, el 6 de octubre de 1976 y el fallecimiento de sus 73 pasajeros. Paradójicamente, mantiene en prolongada e injusta prisión a los luchadores contra el terrorismo, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino y Antonio Guerrero, por delitos que no cometieron.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores rechaza enérgicamente la manipulación de un tema tan sensible como el terrorismo internacional para convertirlo en instrumento de la

política contra Cuba y demanda que se excluya definitivamente a nuestro país de esta lista espuria, unilateral y arbitraria que es una afrenta al pueblo cubano y desacredita al propio Gobierno de los Estados Unidos.